# **Awards/Degrees Requirements**

## **College Parallel/Career Options Programs**

#### Associate in Arts (AA)/Associate in Science (AS):

The degree issued to a person who has satisfied curricular requirements that consist of content equivalent to a two-year college parallel curriculum. The Associate in Arts degree will include a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of courses designed and acceptable for transfer, with the understanding that 16 semester (24 quarter) hours of vocational courses could be included in the total. The Associate in Science degree program requires an appropriate math/science core or the completion of a career option program.

#### Associate in General Studies (AGS):

The degree issued to a person who has satisfied the curricular requirements of a two-year program other than required for any one of the degrees desired under Section C.1. The requirements for this degree should be flexible for individual students. This degree is not intended for transfer. This degree would provide appropriate recognition for students who complete 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of credit and maintain at least a 1.8 grade point average. The Associate in General Studies degree program requires an appropriate math/science core or the completion of a career option program.

### **Career and Technical Programs**

### Associate in Applied Arts (AAA)/Associate in Applied Science (AAS):

The degree issued to a person having satisfied curricular requirements and demonstrated competence for employment in the occupational field for which the program was designed. Requirements for these degrees shall consist of a minimum of 60 semester (or 90 quarter) credit hours.

Programs shall not exceed an average of 19 credit hours per term (28.5 quarter hours), and shall not exceed 86 semester credit hours (129 quarter hours). Program length shall not exceed four regular terms and two summer terms. Each summer term may have two (2) sessions. All college-level courses required for program admittance and/or graduation must be included in the 86 credit hour maximum. Remedial and developmental work shall be in addition to the collegiate level requirements of the degrees. The general education component of AAS and AAA degree programs shall constitute a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit (18 quarter hours).

The general education component shall include at least one course from each of the following: Communications, social science and/or humanities, and mathematics, and/or science. General education addresses the ability to reason, think, compute, communicate, and adapt to change. It also included human development in civic, consumer, environmental, and social responsibilities. The individual institution shall determine applicable coursework in general education insofar as that coursework conforms to the definitions as cited in this document.

The technical specialty component of the AAS and AAA degrees shall constitute a minimum of 50% of the course credits.

A curriculum structure with multiple exit-re-entry points should be considered for AAS and AAA degrees, whenever possible. One such common "building block" approach is a series of certificate/diplomas which represent flexible components for the AAS and AAA degree programs that may eventually be converted into the full degree. Diploma/certificate options must meet the criteria of the Certificate/Diploma programs included in this document.

The AAA degree is awarded to students completing an approved preparatory career program in applied arts. The degree issued to a person who has satisfied curricular requirements and demonstrated competence for employment in the occupational field for which the program was designed.

The AAS degree is awarded to students completing an approved preparatory career program preparing individuals for employment in a technical occupation and other appropriate occupations.

### Diploma:

A program awarding a diploma shall consist of a minimum of 15 semester hours (22 quarter hours) with the general education component consisting of a minimum of 3 semester hours (4 quarter hours) from any of the following: Communications, social science and/or humanities, and mathematics and/or science. Diploma programs shall not exceed 48 semester credit hours (72 quarter hours) in length. Minimum criteria for admission to diploma programs are essential and should be defined by each institution.

### Certificate:

A certificate of completion may be issued to a student who has satisfactorily completed a course of study prescribed by the institution other than one that is intended to result in the awarding of a diploma or degree. Certificate programs shall be less than 48 semester credit hours (72 quarter hours) in length. No general education component required.